

Finding Words *Virginia*

*Presented by the
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services*

I wish I knew what to say.

I wish I had the words to explain...



*Training to be held at Virginia Commonwealth University
Student Union - Richmond Salon • Richmond, Virginia
April 2-6, 2007 • June 18-22, 2007 • September 24-28, 2007*

Finding Words *Virginia*

Finding Words

can be difficult for a child victimized by abuse. Emotions of fear or love, or both, for the perpetrator may cause a child to be reluctant to reveal abuse. If a child tries to speak of abuse, he or she may lack the verbal skills to adequately communicate the event(s) to an adult.

Finding Words

can be difficult for a police officer, social worker, or prosecutor who must speak to a child about abuse. In order to communicate competently with a child, the interviewer must be able to speak in a manner consistent with the child's linguistic and developmental abilities.

Finding Words

can be difficult for a child telling a jury about abuse.

Finding Words

can be difficult for an investigator or prosecutor faced with defending an interview from an attack by defense counsel that the child was "led" into making a false accusation.

Finding Words

is a course presented by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and designed by the National District Attorneys Association's National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse in collaboration with CornerHouse, a nonprofit interagency child abuse evaluation and training center located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

- An intensive five-day course in which students learn the necessary skills to conduct a competent, investigative interview of a child abuse victim using the CornerHouse forensic interview process.
- An interactive course that combines lectures with demonstrations and hands-on experience. Students may be expected to interview a child about a non-abuse event and be critiqued by an expert forensic interviewer. Students will conduct a 30 minute interview with an actor/actress playing the role of an abused child and will be critiqued on their performance.
- The ideal course for investigators and prosecutors seeking to enhance their ability to speak to and for abused children.

Payment Information

The tuition fee is \$200 per person. **Do not send tuition payment with your application. Upon notification of your acceptance to the course, payment will be due.** *If you are accepted and unable to attend, you MUST notify the Course Coordinator. No one will be admitted to the course without prior approval by DCJS.* Attendees are responsible for all expenses, including travel, meals, and lodging. This course is for Virginia residents only.

***Training to be held at Virginia Commonwealth University
Student Union—Richmond Salon • Richmond, Virginia
April 2–6, 2007 • June 18–22, 2007 • September 24–28, 2007***

Faculty

Finding Words Virginia Faculty

Kelly Bober

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
Child Abuse Program
Norfolk, VA

Krista Davidson

Fairfax County Child Protective Services
Fairfax, VA

Twyla DeMoranville

Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office
Spotsylvania, VA

Lisa Parks

City of Lynchburg
Social Services Division
Lynchburg, VA

Chris Rehak

Commonwealth's Attorney
City of Radford
Radford, VA

Marcella Rustioni

Arlington County Child & Family Services Division
Child Advocacy Center
Arlington, VA

Tim Spence

Roanoke Police Department
Roanoke, VA

Cressondra Conyers

Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Williamsburg/James City County
Williamsburg, VA

Course Coordinator

Holly Oehrlein

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Holly.Oehrlein@dcjs.virginia.gov • (804) 371-0534



Finding Words *Virginia*

Application Form 2007

This program is limited to 40 students per session. Please be aware that this is an intensive course. You will receive a **mandatory** reading assignment prior to the training sessions. The workshops are supplemented by homework assignments that must be completed each night and each student will be given a written examination at the end of the course. Students who fail to attend all workshops; to complete homework; to conduct child and actor/actress interviews; and to pass the examination will not be eligible for a certificate of course completion.

Finding Words Virginia

supports a multidisciplinary approach to child abuse cases. Therefore, preference will be given to those who apply to attend the training as a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The ideal team consists of a prosecutor, a forensic interviewer, a law enforcement investigator, and a child protective services worker. Individual applications will also be considered. **If you applied to attend Finding Words Virginia in 2006 and would like your previous application to be considered for one of the 2007 sessions, please contact the Course Coordinator, Holly Oehrlein.** For more information call (804) 371-0534 or e-mail Holly.Oehrlein@dcjs.virginia.gov.

Please check one:

- ☐ MDT Member Application (*Team applications must be submitted together*)
- ☐ Individual Application

Please choose preferable dates of training:

- ☐ April 2-6, 2007 Deadline to apply is March 1st.....You will be notified of acceptance by March 8
- ☐ June 18-22, 2007 Deadline to apply is May 1stYou will be notified of acceptance by May 15
- ☐ September 24-28, 2007 Deadline to apply is July 2nd.....You will be notified of acceptance by July 16

Name _____ Title _____

Office _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____ E-mail _____

Why do you want to attend this course? (attach additional sheet if necessary): _____

Have you applied to attend Finding Words Virginia before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has anyone from your agency attended Finding Words Virginia? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Number of years as a Child Abuse Professional: _____

Experience conducting forensic or therapeutic interviews: _____

Application Form 2007 (Continued)

Please list child abuse related training or interviewing programs you have attended: _____

Approximate size of jurisdiction: (check one)

Jurisdiction: _____ ☐ Less than 20,000 ☐ 20,001 - 50,000 ☐ 50,001 - 100,000
☐ 100,001 - 250,000 ☐ 250,001 - 500,000 ☐ 500,001 or over

Does your jurisdiction have access to a Child Advocacy Center? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your jurisdiction have a multidisciplinary team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, A) Are you currently a member of the team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

B) How long have you been a member? _____

Approximately how many children have you interviewed regarding the following types of abuse:

Physical Abuse/Child Death: _____ Sexual Abuse: _____

Emotional Abuse/Neglect: _____ Physical Neglect: _____

Do you conduct interviews in a child friendly environment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, briefly describe: _____

Check which of the following tools you employ during interviews:

☐ Video Tape ☐ Audio Tape ☐ Anatomical Dolls ☐ Anatomical Drawings

What rapport-building techniques do you use? _____

Check which (if any) of these problems you have encountered during interviewing:

☐ Recantation ☐ Unconvincing/Inconsistent Disclosure ☐ Delayed Disclosure

☐ Non-supportive, non-offending parent ☐ Other _____

Please Note: ALL team applications must be received together. Do not send tuition payment with your application.
Payment will be due after notification of acceptance into the course.

Please Return Completed Application to:

Finding Words Virginia, Attn: Denise Hampton
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
202 North Ninth Street, Richmond, VA 23219
FAX (804) 786-3414

*Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Attn: Denise Hampton
202 N. Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219*



www.dcj.s.virginia.gov

This training is supported by Children's Justice Act Grant #G-0501VACJA1, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Points of view or opinions expressed are those of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services.

